

BOROUGH OF TIVERTON.



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1945

BY

GEORGE NICHOLSON

M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health for Tiverton

AND

ARTHUR J. DENNIS

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector



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BOROUGH OF TIVERTON.

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For the Year 1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
AUTHORITY

(a)

Part time M.O.H.:

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Isolation Hospital:

T. N. RUDD, M.D., M.R.C.P.

District Medical Officer to Guardians:

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

School Clinic Dental Officer:

H. R. CODRINGTON BUTLER, L.D.S.

(b)

Public Analyst:

A. H. MITCHELL

Sanitary Inspector:

ARTHUR J. DENNIS,

Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH to the Borough of Tiverton For the year ended 31st December, 1945.

11, ST. PETER STREET,
TIVERTON,

September, 1946.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

Area. Although the Borough covers an area of 17,680 acres, the Town itself covers 300 acres only.

Population. Census of 1931 was 9,611.
Estimated 1945, 10,630.

Inhabited Houses. Number in 1945 was 2,945.

Rateable Value is £64,892.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate. £256.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births	Legitimate	146	57	89	Birth Rate : 16·4 per 1000
	Illegitimate	29	10	19	
Still Births		4	3	1	Rate per 1000 Births 22·0
Illegitimate Still Births		Nil			
Deaths	...	147	64	83	Death Rate : 13·7 per 1000

Deaths from Pregnancy and Childbirth, 1; Puerperal Sepsis 0; other causes 0. The birth rate is high.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All infants per 1000 live births ... 17.0. (This is a low figure).

Legitimate infants per 1000, legitimate live births 13.0

Illegitimate infants, under one year, per 1000 illegitimate births ... 34

Deaths from Measles	...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough		...	Nil
„ Diarrhœa	...	...	Nil

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.4, and the Birth Rate 16.1. The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales was 46 per 1,000 live Births.

Deaths from Cancer: Stomach and Duodenum 7, Breast 3, Other sites 17. Total 27.

Cancer was the cause in one out of every five deaths.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1—NURSING IN THE HOME No change.

2—There is one Midwife practising in the Area, in addition to the four district nurses.

3—LABORATORY FACILITIES—There are two in the Area—the County Laboratory and that connected with the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

4—HOSPITALS. There are two in the Area. The TIVERTON JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL has proved seriously inadequate owing to the lack of staff which, I am given to understand, is unobtainable.

TIVERTON AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL deals with surgical, medical and maternity cases. There are 45 beds, 11 of which are devoted to maternity cases. Accommodation is very strained at times in all departments and is not really adequate. Maternity cases are regularly refused admission owing to lack of space.

5—INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.
None in the Area.

6—AMBULANCE FACILITIES. No change.

7—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES :—

Out-patient departments (under control of the Local Authority)—School Minor Ailments, each morning, 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays, S.M.O. in attendance, 9 to 12 noon.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre. This Centre is open once weekly.

The attendances for 1945 were as follows :—

Total infants attending for first time	...	...	133
„ children, 1 to 5 years, attending for first time	...	...	6
Number on Register at end of year—Mothers	...	...	262
„ „ „ Infants	...	...	183
„ „ „ 1 to 5 years	...	...	79
Number of attendances during 1945—Mothers	...	...	2820
„ „ „ Infants	...	...	1510
„ „ „ 1 to 5 years	...	...	416

The Mothers and Children have had supervision and advice both at the Welfare weekly by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitor, and in their houses by the Health Visitor. Simple treatment has been given where considered sufficient, in other cases the mothers were referred to their private doctor for treatment.

The ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC was held on 48 Tuesdays during the year—12 sessions by the Surgeon and 36 by the after-care Sister.

Number on Register, 1/1/45	..	...	301
„ 31/12/45	...	...	349
Sessions held	...	..	48
New Cases	...	...	177
Cases seen	...	...	340
Admitted to Hospital	...	..	17
Average weekly attendance	...	...	19.1
Number of Attendances	..	...	917
Admissions :—Adults			87
School Age...			57
Infants			33

No Tuberculosis cases.

There has been a marked and encouraging increase in the number of children under school age sent in for minor defects.

The treatment given seems to be more and more appreciated by the parents and it is very seldom now that they refuse to bring the children.

Some of the elder patients have been trained at St. Loye's College for the Disabled, in connection with the Clinic, the aim being the complete rehabilitation of the patients.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

SCABIES. This condition, although less prevalent, is endemic in the Borough since evacuation. Cases are treated at home or in a special department of the Public Baths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION. A regular monthly clinic is held for this purpose and it is well attended, with the result that immunization is maintained in the region of 90 per cent. As a consequence Diphtheria has become a rarity in the Borough and even when it occurs it usually affects adults whereas previously of course it was principally a disease of children.

Since 1938 a total of 1,950 cases have had full immunization.

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality in 1945.

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10				1				
15								
20								
25	1							
35	2							
45	1	1		2		1		1
55	1				1			
65 and over								
Totals	5	1		3	1	1		1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Sonne Dysentery
Under 1 year						8		
1 to 2						27	2	
2 to 3						18	1	1
3 to 4						56	1	
4 to 5						40		1
5 to 10		1				133	1	
10 to 15						18		
15 to 20						1		
20 to 25								
25 to 30			1					
30 to 35						1		
35 to 45								
45 to 65								
65 and over								
Totals		1	1			302	5	2

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925). No action taken.

Public Health Act, 1925. No action taken.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE NICHOLSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
to the Borough of Tiverton

For the year ended 31st December, 1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, TIVERTON.

October 14th, 1946.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report as your Sanitary Inspector.

At present many duties, including slum clearance and the abatement of overcrowding, are at a standstill, but the ensuring of clean food and a clean and safe milk supply demand much time and thought, and there is a considerable amount of remedial and maintenance work to be undertaken.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY. A good and ample water supply has been available, and regular bacteriological analyses have been taken. Periodical shortage has been experienced in two of the outlying areas, due to loss of volume and pressure en route. These are being dealt with.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. Regular collections of refuse and salvage have been well maintained, and the present methods continue to prove satisfactory. There is a demand for more frequent collections in the rural communities which obviously cannot be considered at present.

The following details of Salvage and Kitchen Waste collected and disposed of may prove of interest.

	SALVAGE		KITCHEN WASTE		Value
January	9 tons 17 cwt.		11 tns. 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt.		£82
February	1	0	9	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	20
March	9	10	9	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	75
April	7	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	65
May		15	8	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	15
June	6	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	57
July	6	5	8	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	54
August	6	9	9	8	58
September	8	15	10	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	74
October		12 $\frac{3}{4}$	11	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	21
November	8	1	17	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	68
December		6	8	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	15
TOTALS	65 tns. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.		121 tns. 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt.		£604

PUBLIC LAVATORIES. There are five for men and four for women in the town.

SANITARY WORK EXECUTED DURING THE YEAR. This consisted almost entirely of essential maintenance work, and all items were dealt with without resorting to formal action.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Inspections and visits made during the year were as follows:

Abattoir	..	...	...	252
Food Shops	..	..	...	185
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops	...		...	268
Bakehouses	...	...	...	31
Markets and Food Stalls...			..	20
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens			...	9
Water Supplies		...	...	26
W.C. Accommodation		...	...	65
Drains Tested...		...	...	18
,, Inspected		...	...	134
,, Choked or Defective			...	20
,, Re-inspections		...	...	57
Urinals and Conveniences			...	32
Infectious Diseases		...	...	6
Factories and Workshops			...	31
Rodent Destruction		...	...	153
Houses Inspected		...		65
,, Re visits		...	...	134
Verminous Premises		...	...	14
Nuisances	...	..	...	109
Rivers Pollution		...	..	32
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	49
Total				<hr/> 1730 <hr/>

**Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by
Byelaws and Regulations.**

There is one offensive trade.

Workshops and Factories.

Tailors	..	...	...	7
Bakers	...	...	...	13
Milliners and Dressmakers			...	9
Saddlery	...	...	...	3
Boot Making		...	...	3
Scale Makers		...	...	1
Smiths	...	...	..	4
Coachbuilders		...	...	2
Joinery and Cabinet Works			...	6
Printers	..	...	...	3
Electrical Engineers	...		...	2
Flour and Provender Mills			...	4
Lace Makers		..	...	1
Laundry	...	...	...	1
Saw Mills	...	...	...	3
Iron Plate Goods		...	...	1
Engineering and Agricultural Works				2
Brewery	...	...	...	1
Dry Cleaning		...	...	1
Monumental Masons	...		...	1
Brush Manufacturers	...		...	1
				—
				69
				—

Other Matters.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	Nil
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act		Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under Public Health Acts	...	Nil
Underground Bakehouses	... ..	Nil

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

		Inspections	Notices	Prosecutions
Factories	...	12	0	0
Workshops	...	10	0	0
Workplaces	...	9	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	31	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

DEFECTS. Three cases of want of cleanliness were discovered and all rectified by informal action.

Housing.

It is hoped that the time is not far distant when we shall be fully engaged in the humanitarian task of remedying the present housing situation, which at the moment is serious.

Houses, which at the outbreak of war were unfit for human habitation, are now in very bad shape, and the curtailment of repairs and maintenance have aggravated the situation, although all really essential work is insisted upon.

Sixteen Cottages in respect of which signed undertakings not to re-let were given, are now occupied either by their original tenants or evacuees, but all under Licence issued by the Council.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY. The quality of milk produced in this area is good, and on the whole a satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

Many premises still do not comply with the Milk and Dairies Orders, but many owners are now reconstructing, or propose to reconstruct, their sheds as soon as labour becomes available.

The majority of farms producing milk are without a proper supply of water, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are performing a really good public service in making grants towards the cost of installing a suitable and sufficient supply.

There are four T.T. and ten Accredited Producers.

There are 24 Milk Retailers in the Borough.

Samples of Milk are regularly submitted to the County Bacteriological Laboratory and any unsatisfactory results are followed up until the cause is found and rectified.

109 Samples were taken during the year, 101 for cleanliness and 9 for tuberculosis. Of the samples taken for cleanliness 66 passed, 22 failed the B.Coli and 13 the Methylene Blue tests. Of the samples taken for tuberculosis eight were negative and one positive. A report of the positive result was passed to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who on examination of the herd concerned found the affected cow and had same disposed of.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. All carcasses are inspected and regular inspections of butcher shops, stalls, etc., are made.

The number of animals examined during the year are as follows :—

	Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
January	76	152	395	19
February	92	111	537	11
March	45	80	416	16
April	43	70	300	7
May	31	67	261	28
June	41	68	422	6
July	52	54	291	12
August	85	75	208	5
September	78	97	203	2
October	91	110	176	2
November	98	168	287	6
December	50	90	328	14
	782	1142	3824	128

This makes a total of 5,876 animals examined during the year.

The following is a list of the meat, etc., condemned as diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption together with the reasons for condemnation.

Article	No., etc.	Reasons for condemnation
Carcases of Beef	35	21 Generalised Tuberculosis 2 Tuberculosis & Emaciation 1 Septicæmia 5 Emaciation and Dropsy 1 Carcinoma and Emaciation 1 Peritonitis 1 Septic Metritis 1 Emaciation and Fever 2 Fevered
Fore Quarters of Beef	10	10 Tuberculosis
Beef (Miscellaneous)	66 lbs. 21 lbs. 106 lbs.	Abcess Injury Bone Taint

Article	No., etc.	Reasons for condemnation
Carcases of Veal	5	2 Emaciation 1 Fevered Flesh 1 Inflammation and Nephritis 1 Immature and Dropsical
Veal (Miscellaneous)	25 lbs.	Inflammation and Nephritis
Carcases of Mutton	61	6 Emaciation and Dropsy 6 Emaciation 3 Dropsy 29 Inflammatory condition 1 Inflammation and Injury 5 Pneumonia Gangrenous 1 Pleurisy 1 Pleurisy and Dropsy 2 Fever 1 Emaciation and Septic 5 Moribund 1 Injury
Mutton (Miscellaneous)	99 lbs.	Injury
	57 lbs.	Inflammatory condition
	51 lbs.	Pneumonia
Pigs' Heads	1	1 Tuberculosis

The total weight of all Meat and Offals condemned during the year was :

14 tons 3 cwt. 2 qr. 6 lbs.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Acts.

The Rat Catcher periodically deals with refuse tips, sewage works, depots, etc., and land owned by the Council, and was available to assist occupiers of domestic and business premises where necessary.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

ARTHUR J. DENNIS,

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

*Sanitary Inspector and
Meat and Food Inspector.*

